



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH
LANSING

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Dear Healthcare Provider:

Lymphogranuloma venereum (LGV) is a systemic, sexually transmitted disease caused by a variety of the bacterium *Chlamydia trachomatis*. Diagnosis of LGV is primarily clinical. Symptoms include: mucous or purulent anal discharge, rectal bleeding, constipation, inguinal/femoral lymphadenopathy (buboes), genital or rectal ulcer or papule, anal spasms, and tenesmus. It is typically seen in Africa, Southeast Asia, Central and South America, and Caribbean countries. However, a recent increase in identified LGV in the Netherlands ([MMWR Oct. 29, 2004](#)), as well as Europe suggest there may be an increase in cases in the U.S., especially among white men who have sex with men (MSM).

The recommended treatment for LGV is doxycycline 100 mg, twice daily for 21 days. Patients can also be given erythromycin 500 mg, four times daily for 21 days. This differs from the treatment for Chlamydia, which is azithromycin, 1 g orally in a single dose, or doxycycline 100mg, twice daily for 7 days.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has initiated enhanced surveillance for LGV. The Michigan Department of Community Health, Bureau of Laboratories, is partnering with CDC in this process and will be conducting initial testing on suspected cases, then forwarding samples and related patient history to CDC. Specimens collected for LGV testing will include a rectal swab and a serum sample. MDCH will perform a Chlamydia culture from the rectal swab and will forward positive cultures to CDC for typing. Serum specimens from positive patients will be forwarded to CDC for serologic testing. Submission of specimens for LGV testing must include a rectal swab (or specimen collected during anoscopy or sigmoidoscopy), a serum sample, a CDC patient information sheet, and completed MDCH Microbiology/Virology and CDC test submission requisitions. Specimen collection kits, requisitions, and patient information sheets can be found on the MDCH website at www.Michigan.gov/specimensubmission and select Clinical Specimen Units from the menu and scroll to LGV.

If you have any questions regarding specimen collection and/or submission, please contact James T. Rudrik, Microbiology Section Manager at 517-335-9641 or Patricia A. Clark, Interim Virology Section Manager at 517-335-8102.